

Message Text

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C O N F I D E N T I A L MOGADISCIO 0676

DEPT PASS HORN OF AFRICA COLLECTIVE

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PBOR, PEPR, SO, ET

SUBJ: SOMALI STATEMENT ON THE HORN CONFLICT

1. THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS ISSUED A STATEMENT ON THE SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA, WHICH WAS CARRIED TODAY, MARCH 29, IN BOTH THE NEWS BULLETIN OF THE SOMALI NATIONAL NEWS AGENCY, AND THE WESTERN SOMALI LIBERATION FRONT NEWS BULLETIN "DANAB".

2. WHILE MOST OF THE STATEMENT CONTAINS THE OFT-REPEATED SOMALI INTERPRETATION OF THE CONFLICT, AND REPEATS THE VIEW THAT IT WAS "FOREIGN MERCENARY FORCES" WHO HAD TO BE BROUGHT IN BY THE ETHIOPIANS, IT ALSO REITERATES A SOMALI COMMITMENT TO CONTINUE SUPPORT FOR SELF-DETERMINATION IN THE OGADEN. THE STATEMENT CONTINUES QTE IN THIS CONTEXT, IT MUST ALSO BE POINTED OUT THAT THE NECESSARY CONDITIONS CONDUCIVE TO A JUST SOLUTION OF THE PROBLEM MUST BE CREATED. THE INTRANSIGENT AND ARROGANT ATTITUDE ADOPTED AND THE OUT-RIGHT REJECTION OF ALL INITIATIVES TAKEN IN THIS DIRECTION BY FRIENDLY COUNTRIES AND THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AS A WHOLE BY THE ABYSSINIAN REGIME WILL ONLY FURTHER HEIGHTEN THE TENSION IN THE REGION. END QUOTE

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3. FURTHER, IT STATES THAT ANY BASIS FOR ANY SOLUTION TO THE HORN OF AFRICA PROBLEM MUST INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING ELEMENTS QTE AS STATED BY PRESIDENT SIAD ON MARCH 8, 1978: A) THE WITHDRAWAL OF ALL FOREIGN TROOPS FROM WESTERN SOMALIA. 2) THE PRESENCE OF NEUTRAL FORCES IN THE TERRITORY SO AS TO STOP THE ON-GOING GENOCIDE AND

REPRISALS THAT ARE BEING COMMITTED BY THE OCCUPYING
ABYSSINIAN FORCES. 3) THE RECOGNITION OF THE RIGHT OF
THE PEOPLE OF THE TERRITORY TO FULL INDEPENDENCE. 4)
NEGOTIATIONS THROUGH THE OAU. END QUOTE.

4. BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL. WE FIND IT NOTEWORTHY THAT THE
SECOND POINT THERE, CALLING FOR NEUTRAL OBSERVERS IN THE
OGADEN, IS AT VARIANCE WITH STATEMENTS MADE PRIVATELY BY
SIAD THAT HE DOES NOT CARE ABOUT HAVING AN OBSERVER
FORCE THERE, AND WOULD IN FACT, PREFER NOT TO PURSUE THE
SUBJECT FURTHER IN THE UNSC. END CONFIDENTIAL.
LOUGHRAN

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NNN

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